

Minutes for Annual General Meeting, Held on 3 January 2013, 17.45, Maplethorpe Seminar Room, St Hugh's College, Oxford

1. Members present and apologies

1.1. For members present, see Appendix A. There were apologies for absence from Pam Clemit, Vicci Coltman, Berta Joncus,

2. Declarations of interest

2.1. None declared

3. Minutes of last AGM

3.1. These were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

4.1. There were no matters arising.

5. Officers' reports

5.a. President

4.a.1. MB noted that this previous year had been one of consolidation. Significant improvements had been made to the website and MB invited suggestions for further improvements from the members of the society. The society's awards and prizes had been continued and MB announced a new one organized jointly with the Georgian Group and the Bodleian Library. MB also noted that the fundraising campaign had been successful and proposed that this be continued.

4.a.2. MB drew attention to the successful launch of the online events reviews. He extended thanks to MM for work on this launch.

4.a.3. MB announced that KR had been appointed as the new affiliates officer. He also indicated the need for a new editor to work on the online events reviews.

4.a.4. MB announced a new initiative of an annual BSECS lecture which is to be linked to the re-establishment of honorary membership. Although the details are still under discussion, this lecture will take place in different venues across the UK.

4.b. Treasurer

4.b.1. BC circulated the Financial Accounts Statement. BC reported that the financial statement had been audited.

4.b.2. BC explained that the present balance stands at £91,252. This is approx. £10,000 more than 2012.

4.b.3. BC explained that the funds from donations made specifically for awards and prizes had been invested in the restricted funds.

4.b.4. BC explained that the society had a reserves policy which covered conferences and journal payments. The current reserves are in line with this policy.

4.b.5. BC extended his thanks to CR for her work as assistant treasurer.

4.b.6. The accounts were accepted by the AGM.

4.c. *Executive secretary*

4.c.1. SY had nothing to report.

4.d. *Journal editor*

4.d.1. MG reported that the journal was thriving with a good number of high quality submissions. These submissions were also pleasingly across a wide range of disciplines and from international scholars.

4.d.2. MG explained the potential impact of the Finch report into open access publication. He reported that he was monitoring the situation and in contact with Wiley regarding this. Fiona Price asked if the proposed changes covered only research body funded articles which would lead to uneven application of the report. MG said he felt the proposals would eventually be extended to cover all articles. Conrad Brunstrum asked if smaller journals would be harder hit by these changes. MG replied that the British Academy was monitoring the situation. David McCallum asked if the membership should be consulted about this as was happening in other societies. MG replied that the situation was so uncertain that this seemed unhelpful at this stage.

4.e. *Reviews Editor*

4.e.1. MM reported that JECs now had more space for reviews. This space comes from the move to a larger format journal and the introduction of online only reviews

4.f. *Conference organizers*

4.f.1. CW reported a successful postgraduate conference in Salamanca, July 2012. She also announced the next postgraduate conference to take place at Northumbria University in July 2013.

4.f.2. CW called attention to the CFP for the 2014 conference included in the conference program. She explained that the intention was to broaden the focus of the conference. The CFP therefore will invite papers from any eighteenth-century topic, although there will still be a conference theme of pleasure and entertainments.

4.f.4. In response low attendance for previous years' final sessions, CW explained that this year's conference would end with a roundtable and wine reception. Panels on the final day had also been kept short.

5. Report on the election of officers and committee members

5.1. The election of new members was discussed under the president's report (4.a.3.)

6. Members comments and feedback

6.1. Moira Goff asked how many members the society currently had. BC explained he did not have to hand the exact number as Wiley now dealt with subscriptions. He thought it to be approximately 400. BC committed to bring this information to future AGMs. BC noted that membership was biased in favour of English Literature and history. PCor noted this bias was demonstrated and possibly maintained by a similar bias in JECS. She suggested overview articles in different disciplines to encourage wider participation. MG agreed to consider the disciplinary reach of JECS. MB noted that the wider work of the society including links with affiliate societies and joint awards was also addressing this issue.

6.2. FOG informed the meeting that the provisional agreement of ISECS had been obtained to hold the 2019 ISECS Congress in Edinburgh. Final confirmation looks likely as the bid had been received with enthusiasm by the ISECS committee. MB extended his thanks to the sub-committee which had put the bid together. Sebastian Mitchell asked if the potential for Scottish independence by 2019 was an issue. PCor replied that this was not a problem.

7. Any other business

7.1. JG extended thanks to MB for his presidency.

Appendix A

Members present at AGM

Committee members: Michael Burden, Brycchan Carey, Daniel Cook, Penelope Corfield, Matthew Grenby, Jeremy Gregory, Matthew McCormack, Frank O'Gorman, Penny Pritchard, Charlotte Roberts, Kate Rumbold, Emma Salgård Cunha, Corinna Wagner, Debbie Welham, Helen Williams, Sharon Young

Society members:

Conrad Brunstrum

Laurent Chatel

Jeanne Clegg

Regina Dal Santo

Cheryll Duncan

Simona Girleanu

Moira Goff

Moyra Haslett

Neil Howe

Alexander Huber

Vicky Joule

Giacomo Mannironi

David McCallum

Sebastian Mitchell

Peter Nockles

Fiona Price

Susan Scott

Min Wood